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EXTRAORDINARY

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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi (2), the 10th February 1953

No. 44/53-Public.—The President has heard with the deepest regret of the death on February 10 at 3 A.M. of Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister in charge of Defence in the Union Cabinet. By his passing, India has lost an administrator and statesman of the first rank who had dedicated his life to the service of his country and rightfully earned a trusted and honoured place in the highest counsels of the nation.

2. Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar began his distinguished career in 1905 as an officer of the Madras Civil Service and by dint of sheer ability rose to occupy the highest administrative posts. As the first Registrar-General of Panchayats, he did pioneering work in the cause of village self-government and rural development. As a Member of the Madras Board of Revenue, he introduced many valuable reforms in the machinery and methods of administration in the province. After his retirement in 1937, he served as the Prime Minister of Kashmir for six years—a period remarkable for the all-round progress and prosperity achieved by the State. At an age when most public servants gladly seek rest and retirement, Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar entered upon a period of the most strenuous and unstinted labours in the service of his country as one of the architects and builders of the political and administrative structure of free India. As a Member of the Drafting Committee, he was a co-author of the Constitution and as a Minister in the Central Government, holding, at different times, the important portfolios of Railways, Transport, States and Defence, he set a remarkable example of how the Constitution should be worked. Despite the heavy burden already borne by him, he was always willing cheerfully to accept additional and special assignments. His profound knowledge and experience of administrative matters, and his wise statesmanship and grasp of public affairs marked him out as a man to whom his colleagues turned when new problems arose. Placing India's case before the United Nations, conducting negotiations in regard to the Kashmir dispute, reporting on the reorganization of the machinery of Government, taking over the leadership of the newly constituted Upper House in Parliament, these and many other difficult tasks he undertook and carried out with conspicuous success. He used up every ounce of his strength and vigour in the service of his country and, like a true soldier, died at his post in the discharge of his duty.

By order of the President,

S. B. BAPAT,

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India.

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